

# GIVE US MEN

THE man who invented the jet-propelled plane nearly gave up experimenting because no one encouraged him. He invented and practised, schemed, and improvised. He hawked his ideas round, but everyone shook his head. No one was interested except a group of friends who believed in Group Captain Frank Whittle, the inventor.

It was his personality, his equipment, his brains, in which those friends believed. They saw, as one of them says, that he was unique. He had something in him which marked him out as different from others. He nearly gave up, but they believed in him, and so he kept on.

The encouragement of his friends was this inventor's great asset. Without them he probably would have let his brilliant ideas go rusty. They had faith in him. They grouped themselves round him, and became a team of faith and belief in one man.

## Founders of Our New World

Give us men like this for our world now and after the war. These are the men who must be the founders of our new world—men who see an idea, believe in it, go on working for it; men who believe in their leader and give him unswerving faith and loyalty. Give us men who are good encouragers of others and give a cheer to them when they are downhearted.

Give us men who invent. The flow of ideas and schemes is a work of lively and confident people. Britain has led the way in inventions, in the locomotive, the steamboat, the internal combustion engine, the marvels of surgery, and now the latest wonder of the air. Give us men who will invent similar things in the years to come, and there need be no fear for our future.

THE world's need is for new ideas. The war has stirred up many new prospects. Our travel will be faster and safer; our communications swifter; our health better; and provision for the essential needs of everybody more sure.

But more ideas and inventions are required. The air, the sea, and the land are packed with hidden wealth which need the keen brain of the inventor to unearth and make available. The true inventor is the man who not only sees an idea, but also relates that idea to ordinary life. Book ideas must become life ideas. The inventions of the laboratory and the "back room" must be made to enrich the common life of man so that all can benefit.

## The Power of the Spoken Word

Give us also men who speak. The power of the spoken word is great. In British history the place of Parliament has been a significant one. At Westminster men have spoken in freedom about the state of their country and of the world. It is there that the great oratory of Britain is heard to denounce evil and to uplift the good. Listen to Edmund Burke:

*Freedom is the spirit of the English Constitution which, infused through the mighty mass, pervades, feeds, unites, invigorates, vivifies every part of the Empire, even down to the minutest member.*

PARLIAMENT has been the supreme platform of the people's speech. Those who have spoken there have spoken in the name of the people. It was here that slavery was killed;

it was here that the worst factory conditions were remedied, and it was here that Old Age Pensions were pleaded and the widows were remembered.

It is in the British Parliament that the rights of children and helpless invalids and of the blind are never forgotten. It is a place where men speak about those things they care for supremely and for which they are ready to give all their strength.

## Great Days Yet to Come

Give us men who will speak boldly in the Pulpit. The great days of the Christian religion in Britain are yet to come. They must be days when men once again listen eagerly to preachers whose lips are touched with the prophetic and whose words go home to the personal lives of those who listen. The days of great preaching are yet to be. They must be days when men listen to the prophet and teacher who has the Word of God to expound, and whose word is not of his own making but is Eternal. Give us men who will speak as the prophets of the Old Testament and the evangelists of the New.

GIVE us, too, men who write. The great day of the printed word in Britain is not over. It is yet to be. Vast companies of young men and women have learned during the war to read good books and have caught the habit of handling books and papers. They respect the printed word. It speaks with authority and has the power of instruction which no other form of instruction has. Give us, therefore, men who will handle the art of writing reverently and set out its results before the people with care and honesty. Let no man undertake this honourable task who is not first of all a man who knows its importance and will endeavour to carry it out with humility.

Give us men who discover. The discoverers are classed with the inventors, but here let us place them among the more ordinary people. All life is discovery. It is a life-long process. Every day is a new day and has fresh undiscovered things in it. Give us men who look at life like that. The world contains many people who claim to have found out everything about life; but life for them is indeed finished.

## The Greatest of All Gifts

We cannot expect a new world unless we are all on tip-toe to discover it. It is here waiting to be seen. The road we live in and the office we work in, the people we meet, let us look at them in the spirit of fresh discovery. It is not over the mountains and far away that the great discoveries lie for most people. They lie mainly in having the alert mind which is ready to see the fresh, the new, and the surprising in the common make-up of every day.

FINALLY, give us men of faith. Faith is the greatest of all gifts. Give us men who believe although they cannot see and handle all they believe. Give us men who walk not only by sight, but by that inward light of faith which guides them through intricate and doubtful places.

Faith is the gift we would covet most. It is the gift which is the greatest asset to inventors, to discoverers, to speakers, to preachers, and to writers. Give us men of faith for the new world and we know that many other things will be added unto us.

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

## Winnie the War Winner

A MODEST radio transmitter sending out messages in Morse code thrilled thousands of listeners not long ago when it was heard from an Australian wireless station. It was during a special war relic session, and the stream of dots and dashes came from Winnie the War Winner, the historic emergency transmitter which had brought food and supplies to Australian guerillas in Timor.

After the Japanese arrived on Timor these guerillas were given up for lost for sixty days. They retreated to the hills, and carried on a little private war of their own against the invaders. The Sparrow Force, as they came to be called, soon ran short of food and ammunition. They fashioned banana strips into headgear, and used bamboo bark and banana leaves for writing material. Friendly natives kept them supplied with fresh meat, until the Japanese put a stop to this.

Winnie the War Winner was concocted from scraps of iron wire, kerosene tins, solder, and parts of radio sets the men brought back from raids on Japanese camps. After many experiments Winnie went into action and a few staggering dots and dashes were picked up in Darwin, 400 miles away. The Northern listening post cleared the air for the Morse code, which said "We are still fighting in the hills." At first the Australian post thought it might be a Japanese trick, and, knowing some of the men who were sending the message, asked one for the name of his wife. "Joan," came back the correct reply, and this was the signal for planes to leave for the Sparrow Force loaded with much-needed food and ammunition.

A photographer was flown later into the hills and made a film of these brave men, many of whom, alas, have since perished.



## Proud Percheron

A last tidy-up before entering the sale ring, at a show in Cambridgeshire of the British Percheron Horse Society

## THE YOUNG MASTERS

AT the early age of 12, instead of the usual age of 18 or 19, Merrill Kenneth Wolf is to go to Yale, the Oxford of the U.S.A., to study law, and to follow later the profession of both his parents. He has already been an undergraduate at the Western Reserve University, and it is perhaps on this account that the great Connecticut seat of learning has accepted the youngest student since its foundation in 1881.

Certainly Merrill's previous record was remarkable. At 12 months he had already mastered the "reader" for 5-year-olds, and at 22 months he was strumming a Liszt melody on the piano. We hope he will not develop into

anything but a normal though unusually brilliant youth.

Mozart, who toured the capitals of Europe when he was six, and at 15 was elected to the Philharmonic Academy of Bologna, is perhaps the outstanding example of a child prodigy fulfilling all his early promise. Though he died at 35, in the full flowering of his genius, his life gave the world full measure of beauty, abiding and immortal. In our own day, Moisewitsch and Solomon, Helfetz and Menuhin, all child prodigies, have grown up into mature and finished artists. We trust that Merrill Kenneth Wolf will emulate them.



## RUMANIA'S DESPERATE PLIGHT

As soon as the Red Army pushed its way across the River Dniester, and thus entered the former Rumanian province of Bessarabia, broadcasts were sent out by the BBC European services warning the Rumanian people to come out of the war.

As a people the Rumanians, mostly peasants, have not been at all enthusiastic supporters of the Axis, and as the war has grown in intensity they have suffered severe hardships.

For their strongest leader, Marshal Antonescu, has proved but an agent in the power of Hitler and the Nazis, who have exploited to the full the jealousies between Rumania and her hostile neighbours, Hungary and Bulgaria, have drained the country of its produce in food and materials—chiefly oil, and have used its young manhood ruthlessly in their campaign against Russia; Rumania's losses are said to number half a million men.

Marshal Antonescu was bribed into the war by the promise of the restoration of Bessarabia and Bukovina and, in addition, of the rich lands between the Dniester and the Bug, whose port is the magnificent Odessa.

Far-sighted Rumanian patriots like Dr Maniu, leader of the National Peasant party, and M. Bratianu, leader of the Liberal party, have protested in vain against the sacrifices on the Eastern front, but German pressure has been adamant.

Today King Michael of Rumania, faced with the invasion

of his country and the possibility of civil war thereafter, is in an unenviable position. At 22, he has already done what no monarch in history has ever done before—he has been twice the king of his country. He succeeded his grandfather, Ferdinand, in 1927, while his father was in exile. Six years old then, Michael "reigned" for three years, until his father came back and took the throne for himself in 1930. On the fall of France, ten years later, Carol abdicated and Michael was back again on the throne, but Antonescu was Dictator. Was there ever so ridiculous a situation? Could Anthony Hope's invented Ruritania, which was based on Balkan history but exaggerated its vagaries, have imagined any grosser absurdity? And Michael may even beat his own record ere long, by being not only enthroned twice, but deposed twice.

With its ruthless Iron Guard under the infamous Horia Sima, the Gestapo, and other imported Nazis within, with the Germans controlling Hungary, and Russia and her allies attacking by land and air, the Rumanian people are in a desperate plight. As a nation Rumania is one more example of the penalty of greed.

## GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL

BOTH Lords and Commons have welcomed the intention of the Government to establish a comprehensive National Health Service.

In moving the resolution to approve the White Paper (the main points of which have been given in a recent CN) Mr Willink, the Minister of Health, declared that a National Health Service was one of the main pillars on which our post-war structure should rest.

Lord Woolton, who moved a similar resolution in the House of Lords, described the scheme as the greatest single advance ever made in this or any other country in the service of public health. Lord Woolton went on to declare that the health of every individual making up the nation lay at the root of national vigour and enterprise, and to insist that the scheme was a common insurance scheme which in-

cluded the whole community to join together in an effort to ensure for every individual a positive opportunity for good health.

Members of both Houses asked important questions as to the future status of medical men and voluntary hospitals in the proposed National Service, and the Government reassured its critics by saying that there was to be no compulsion for any doctor or nurse, and that the voluntary hospitals would gain financially while retaining their freedom as units.

All the new proposals will of course cost money, but the new principle is that "All will pay for the service of all," and, in the long run, we shall be chiefly paying to be kept well rather than for cure when ill.

The CN looks forward to the Bill which the Government will prepare after further consultation with those it will concern.

## Air War in the Jungle

THIS war has produced many surprises, and one of the biggest in recent months was the announcement that a big British force had been landed by plane and glider a hundred miles behind the Japanese forces in Burma.

A flight of 200 miles from the base in India and a crossing of the Chin Hills at 7000 feet before putting down in the jungle were involved in this latest combined operation of the American and British forces in the South-East Asia command.

First to land were gliders carrying American engineers and British troops with equipment for clearing the jungle and laying a landing strip for planes. Pack mules also were carried. Within 12 hours heavy American

transport planes were able to land with the main body of British and Indian troops and their stores and equipment. Every three minutes a plane touched down on the landing strip and disgorged its freight before taking off again. Soon the landing strip was 4000 yards long; and eight days after the landing the Japs made their first attack with fighter and bomber planes. It was driven off by gunfire and Spitfires.

The presence of a strong force so far behind his lines and menacing his communications with Northern Burma was a matter of some concern for the enemy, but his first attack by ground forces was not made until 12 days after the first landing.

## Cricket When Peace Comes

SCATTERED all over the world as never before are Englishmen in exile, thinking and dreaming of Home—and Cricket. Home is ever in their thoughts, and inseparable from it is the remembrance, and the hope, of summer afternoons on village greens, on club grounds, at Lord's or Trent Bridge or Headingley. A game of cricket in the sun, or a vantage-point to watch the masters play it—that is one item in almost every Englishman's post-war plans; and that is why there has been such keen interest in the recommendations of the MCC for county cricket after the war.

### Regional Competition

The Select Committee of the MCC think it desirable that county cricket should be resumed as soon as possible when the war ends, and have submitted an emergency scheme because a normal resumption may be out of the question. This emergency scheme is primarily to revive public interest and arranges the counties into North and South groups (each with two distinct regions) for an 18-week season. In the first 10 weeks the counties would play in their own region at first, and later in their own group. The next six weeks would be available for matches outside these groupings; and the last two weeks for challenge matches between regional leaders, and a championship match between the North and South leaders.

For the first normal season the MCC have a Rationalisation Scheme by which all the first-class counties will play 26 matches each and thus abolish "percentages"; will play at least 13 home games; and play each other at least once. This will make for a straightforward County Championship; but in addition traditional matches like the Gentleman v Players will be preserved, and there will also be an opportunity for a knock-out competition on the lines of the Football Association Cup.

### Good Advice

Among other recommendations made by the MCC in the best interests of our national game the following are of general interest:

The eight-ball over, introduced in 1939, should be displaced by the less tiring and generally more desirable six-ball over.

A new ball should be provided after 55 overs instead of 200 runs. Groundsmen should be instructed to prepare fast wickets.

Appeals against bad light should go, play being suspended only if both umpires decide that it would be dangerous to continue.

County cricket on Sundays is undesirable.

Finally the MCC committee recommend (and here the advice holds good for all cricketers, whether they belong to school, club, or county sides) that the team shall aim at victory from the first ball and maintain an enterprising attitude until the last over; and that the players shall adopt a dynamic attitude towards the game whether batting, bowling, or fielding.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

VEUVIUS has been in fierce eruption and streams of lava have poured down the mountain-side in many directions.

The flag of the Ramsgate lifeboat, which rescued 2800 men from Dunkirk, has been presented to St George's Church, Ramsgate.

Ten members of both Houses of Parliament are to visit Australia and New Zealand.

The Central Institute of Art and Design appeals for art books for prisoners of war. They should be sent to the Institute c/o The National Gallery, London.

Since the war began our lifeboatmen have rescued 5536 people, an average of 24 lives every week.

The RCAF has a new zip-fastened flying suit which can be shed in 15 seconds.

MORE maps are to be displayed in London Tubes for the guidance of travellers.

A wolf 8 feet long has been killed in Norway, the biggest ever seen in that country.

General Russell Wilson, American expert on precision bombing, went down with his Fortress in flames when leading for the first time an attack on Berlin.

### Youth News Reel

DURING the last two years Scouts of Sydney (Nova Scotia) have collected 1,300,000 pounds of salvage. This is said to be a record for all Canada.

In 15 months the 1st Bradford-on-Avon Brownies have collected 11,000 "ship" halfpennies, the money being used to buy books for sailors.

While on a hike, Scouts of the Holdfast (Australia) Troop found a man with a nasty gunshot wound in his foot. They applied urgently needed first aid and carried the patient uphill for half a mile to transport.

## When He Puts on "Civvies"

IT is good to know that when the day of demobilisation comes our soldiers will be able to put on "civvy" clothes which will not make them feel awkward.

One little thing which was a sore point in 1919 was the failure to provide the man just out of the Army with civilian clothing of a decent kind, good enough to make him feel that he really was getting a fresh start in life.

That will not happen again, for the War Office has already laid in stocks of civilian clothes for

The Board of Education plans to raise the number of boys training at technical schools for the building industry from 4000 to 10,000 a year.

Between 60,000 and 70,000 children and 2200 teachers are still evacuated.

OVER £50,000 has been contributed by U.S. soldiers in Britain to their own fund for British children orphaned by the war.

According to Mr W. Nash, Deputy Premier of New Zealand, the average length of life in his country is 67 years, in England 60, in Scotland 54.

The number of doctors in this country on the Medical Register at the end of 1943 was 71882.

A Government war factory in this country has 56 special trains daily to carry its employees to work.

The Mayors of Derby, Conway, Rugby, Abergavenny, and Bangor are all workers on the LMS railway.

King Peter of Yugoslavia married Princess Alexandra of Greece in London recently, in the presence of King George the Sixth and three other monarchs.

A ship's biscuit baked in 1876 is the weekly "trophy" competed for by the Patrols of the 3rd Hayling Scout Troop.

The Scoutmaster of the 1st Cheam Troop of Boy Scouts has received a parcel of gifts from the American Junior Red Cross to be distributed among children in the district.

To commemorate its jubilee the 21st Dublin Company of the Boys Brigade presented to Holy Trinity Church a bronze baptismal ewer designed by a past member and engraved by an old boy.

soldiers which are of first-rate quality and style. The outfit to be provided is worth £12, and the clothes are better than many men could afford to buy. In addition to this outfit each man is to have a spare battledress for rough wear, in work or sport.

So much for the soldiers, but the problem of civilian clothes for the ATS is regarded as too thorny for even the War Office experts to solve. So when they are demobilised the girls will receive an issue of coupons and a grant of cash.

## SWISS HUNTER OF U-BOATS

MANY are the nations, British and Allied, fighting under the banner of the R.A.F., and now we hear of a Swiss hero, Squadron-Leader E. J. Wicht, D.F.C., who has sunk a U-boat from the air.

Squadron-Leader Wicht has been on our side for a long time. He became a naturalised British subject in order to fly with the R.A.F. and was badly wounded early in the war. But though his

spine was injured, he recovered after a time, took to the air again, and has now made a big reputation as a hunter of U-boats. Today he is one of our most skilful pilots in the great Battle of the Atlantic, which is not yet over, though the issue has long since been placed beyond doubt by the Royal Navy and R.A.F. the Canadian and American fleets and planes, and by "visitors" like this brave young man from the Alps.

## THINGS SEEN

A hen's egg weighing 7½ ounces, three times the normal weight, in a nest on a farm at Leeds in Kent.

A mouse standing on its hind legs in a shop window at Rotherham, licking the moisture off the glass.

## Two Locomotive Men

Sir William Stanier, chief mechanical engineer of the LMS Railway and designer of the famous Coronation express, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

He is the only locomotive engineer to receive this honour since Robert Stephenson.



The Children's Newspaper, April 1, 1944

## PLANS FOR NEXT HARVEST

THE Ministry of Agriculture has already made plans for this year's harvest, when the need for voluntary labour will be much greater than last year, for we are adding another half a million acres to our arable land.

Last year there were half a million harvest volunteers, and there is no doubt that the camps for boys and girls were a great success. This year, says the Ministry of Agriculture, we want every public and secondary school to aim at filling a harvest camp.

Adult volunteers will receive a shilling an hour, and senior boys and girls will get ninepence an hour, to say nothing of earning a splendid holiday!

A considerable increase in adult campers is hoped for, 150,000 to 200,000 being required, as compared with about 80,000 last year. About 200 camps will be set up, and the first will be opened in April, although most of them will be in operation from July to October. In adult camps volunteers will pay 28s a week for board and lodging, including entertainments and participation in an insurance scheme.

There will be four main schemes of recruiting: emergency land corps of people living in the country; voluntary land clubs in towns; harvest camps for school-children and arrangements for schoolchildren to work in the holidays and to a limited extent in term-time; and voluntary agricultural camps for adults.

## THE BLIND SWEEP

In Blackburn a blind man can be seen going round taking the place of a chimney sweep. He is Mr D. Sargeant who once worked in a factory for the blind where brushes are made. Having a few of his own brushes available he now uses them most efficiently as a voluntary chimney sweeper.

## PRIORITY

A perfect little story of the humours of wartime travel troubles comes from Washington.

A lecturer who had an engagement to speak in a Kentucky city went to the airport and found that there was just one seat left in the plane. While congratulating himself on his good fortune, along came an Army colonel with a priority ticket, so the lecturer was compelled to give up his place and telegraph his regrets for the cancellation.

Later he learned that the colonel had flown to Kentucky especially to hear his talk.

## Kindly Punishment

A BRITISH soldier who escaped from Northern Italy to Switzerland has written home telling how his new hosts "punished" him and his companions.

Needless to say, the kindly Swiss people are not likely to "punish" Britons, and British fighting men especially, with any great harshness. In this case they sent them to prison; but only because the local gaol was warmer and more comfortable than the quarters in which they had previously been housed. Their sleeping-room was chilly, and one day they had protested about the lack of warmth. There was no better place for them at the time except the district prison, but here a centrally-



## A Landing Operation

How tanks will be landed on some of the beaches of Europe is shown in this picture taken during training manoeuvres. The explosion is a land-mine fired to add to the realism.

## IN THE BISHOP'S ABSENCE

"Oh, I'm glad you were not there," said the African to the Bishop, "it gave us a chance to show what we could do when you are away!"

This native wanted to show that, even without episcopal encouragement, the Gambian Africans could make a fine present to bomb-scarred London. A bazaar had been organised in Bathurst by a young African who had been studying at Canterbury during one of that city's blitzes. Europeans and Syrians helped, but the effort was mainly African, and nearly £180 was raised.

The Bishop was 300 miles away in the African bush at the time. When he came back he was asked to send the money to London for the restoration of its blitzed churches.

## No 1 AIR BASE

General A. C. Critchley, Director-General of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, has stated that he knows an excellent site for building the world's largest civil air-base.

Not very far from Hyde Park Corner, it covers an area of 2800 acres with water for flying-boat runways a little way below the surface.

It could have a main runway, for planes, 5000 yards long and a water runway, for flying-boats, 3500 yards by 200.

heated room was available. So the good Swiss provided mattresses and turned it into a dormitory for the men, until a local hall, also with central heating, could be made ready for them.

Settled in their new quarters, our men proceeded to celebrate with a real "pre-war" party, and the arrival of Red Cross parcels made it possible for them to share good things with some Yugoslav internees who had no such luxuries.

The unfailing kindness of the Swiss, and the smiles with which they sent our boys "to prison," will be one of those happy memories which make for genuine and permanent international friendship.

## TOO CLEVER

To a certain firm in Melbourne, Australia, its books were valuable, and to protect them it kept them in a fireproof safe. To cover all eventualities, it left the key in the lock and hung on it the following notice: "Nothing in safe except books. To open door, turn key to left."

One night a safe-breaker came along, threw away the notice, took out the key, plugged the keyhole with gelignite and blew it with a fuse.

The explosion locked the door tightly, so the visitor had to leave empty-handed. Probably he did not know till the local newspaper informed him that the notice, which he thought was a blind, was literally true.

## CANADA'S NEW GLUE

Canada has invented a new glue that will do a big job in both war and peace. The National Research Council of the Dominion, which is responsible for this new plastic, has used it experimentally in the making of wooden propellers for aircraft. The wood sections can be stuck together with a joint as strong as wood itself in about five minutes instead of 28 days.

After the war this glue will be useful for the construction of prefabricated houses to meet the housing need of peacetime reconstruction. The ready-made pieces can be assembled and glued together quickly and strongly, without the use of nails at all.

## THE HITLERS

Among those recently called up for service in the USA forces was a man aged 32 bearing the name of William Patrick Hitler, reported to be a nephew of Adolf Hitler. He has sworn to serve the United States "honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever." He is now an apprentice seaman in the US Navy.

## CORN OR LIVESTOCK

In increasing her production of grain by more than 80 per cent since September 1939, Britain, according to Mr Tom Williams, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, has sacrificed her livestock.

The figures he gave for the decrease in the numbers of livestock were sheep 21.6 per cent; poultry 33.5 per cent; and pigs 59.3 per cent. Only in cattle was there an increase, of 6.4 per cent.

## THE AIRMAN'S FISHING TACKLE

It will not be long before American air-crews start nailing up new records on the walls of their mess-rooms. These records will not be of the greatest number of enemy planes shot down, but of the largest fish caught.

The reason for this is that every American air-crew crossing the sea to bomb the Continent is being issued with a booklet of instructions on how to catch fish if they are forced down into the sea. Every bomber which makes its way to the German capital has a small rubber container which holds a fishing kit weighing one pound.

The bait is pork rind, and the outfit includes fifteen feet of line and some hooks, together with a whetstone for sharpening the hooks.

## A BLUE MOON

"Once in a blue moon" is a phrase that suggests great rarity, but the blue moon was actually seen in Wellington, New Zealand, one night recently, and a very beautiful sight it was—a fine three-days-old crescent of pale sky tint.

This unusual spectacle was due to the fact that the moon was caught in the spread of a delicate pink sunset, and the colour was not so much in the moon itself as in the eye—a matter of complementary colours, due to contrast.

## Kronfeld the Glider Man

THE other day an officer of the RAF took his small son with him to Buckingham Palace, and little Julian Kronfeld waited while King George VI handed the Air Force Cross to Squadron-Leader Robert Kronfeld for "exceptional valour, courage, and devotion to duty while flying, though not in operations against the enemy."

We cannot disclose the nature of Squadron-Leader Kronfeld's work, for it is a secret that Hitler would dearly like to know. When Hitler invaded Austria ten years ago, that meant the end of Kronfeld's Austrian citizenship, for he was a Jew. So Kronfeld came over here, and since the war he has been one of the foremost

## WORLD YOUTH WEEK

THE first week of spring, March 21 to 28, is World Youth Week, and this week, so symbolic of all youthful promise, will find freedom-loving youth everywhere making renewed efforts for their own country and for the whole civilised world.

The week is being celebrated with special youth campaigns in many lands—in Russia, in fourteen Latin-American countries, in Canada, and in the U.S.A. where the great slogan is, Youth Fights for the Four Freedoms.

Many organisations, such as the International Youth Council in Britain, have made this week one of extra effort in war work and community service; and it has also been an occasion for expressions of solidarity with the youth of occupied Europe and of all the United Nations.

Everywhere youth is showing a new awareness of its responsibilities, and a new determination to lead this world out of the Slough of Despond and make it a better, finer place to live in. Everywhere youth is making a fine response to the clarion call of the World Youth Council: "During World Youth Week, as we stand shoulder to shoulder in united action and endeavour, no expanses of sea and land will separate us in our march forward through victory to the springs of succeeding years—springs of new life and happiness. Forward for our future Unite! Fight! Attack! Win!"

## THE EARLY BIRD

Who kept on stealing the capsules off the milk bottles? That was the problem worrying the headmistress of the Kessingland Infants' School.

A trap was set one morning and the culprit found—a two-legged rascal known as Jackie. It was the village jackdaw who had been causing all the trouble!

## A EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER

Speaking of his new publication, "Europe," the other day, Mr Noel F. Newsome, the editor, put forward the idea of a European daily newspaper. The purpose of the paper, printed in many languages, would be, he said, to join the peoples of Europe in common thought and a spirit of unity.

As Mr Richard Law, Minister of State, remarked, in reference to Lord Baldwin's "Our frontier is the Rhine": "To say now that our frontier is on the Rhine or the Vistula is an obvious understatement. Our frontier is the world of man."

gliding instructors in the country. Kronfeld was one of the early enthusiasts for gliding, and won many a trophy in Germany in pre-Hitler days; he also won the Daily Mail prize of £1000 in 1931 for the first cross-Channel glider flight both ways. Probably the foremost exponent of the art in Europe, he regarded gliding as a sport and not as an excuse for building up the nucleus of the German Air Force forbidden under the Treaty of Versailles. Now this distinguished Austrian airman is a British subject, with a British-born family. But we can well believe that he looks forward with hope and delight to the day when Austria shall be free again.



## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### WISDOM IN UNDERSTANDING

PEARL S. BUCK, author of *The Good Earth* and other books interpreting China to the West, is President of the East and West Association formed two years ago in America. The Association reports that similar societies are now being started in other countries; in particular, Lin Yutang, author of *The Importance of Living*, and Moment in Peking, is forming an East and West Association in China.

There is much wisdom in getting a better understanding between the peoples of different races, and we should like to see a great extension of this fine idea.

### Its Sweetness Is Not All

A SUGAR RESEARCH FOUNDATION has been formed in the United States to develop non-food uses for sugar because, it is said, more sugar can be grown than the world can consume.

Sugar, however, is a very important article of diet, and we wonder if it is true that it is easier to grow sugar than to find consumers for it; for even in peacetime the consumption of sugar is comparatively small in some parts of Europe, and in the world at large there must be millions whose consumption of sugar and sugar products is meagre. Nevertheless, the work of the Sugar Research Foundation will be followed with great interest, for the possibilities are tremendous.

### A Deplorable Fact

RECENT figures for vaccination are not available, but we know that in 1941 no fewer than 243,000 children were exempted whose parents objected to vaccination as prejudicial to a child's health. The medical profession, however, differs from the objectors, and regards it as unfortunate that so many children remain unvaccinated. It is said that fewer than half the children now born in this country are being vaccinated.

## The Police Are Teaching Road Sense

ALTHOUGH our roads are comparatively quiet at the moment, accidents continue at an appalling rate, and one shudders to think what will happen after the war when school-children face traffic conditions they have never known.

Before the war it was nothing unusual during the week-end for pedestrians to have to wait 20 minutes before they could cross the Portsmouth Road at most points between Esher and Guildford; while the Brighton, Dover, Bath, and Great North roads were much the same. Within the big towns the chaos was apparently insoluble.

In London a quarter of a million schoolchildren are being

taught road sense by policemen. The younger ones cannot remember pre-war days, and to them, unless they are carefully instructed in the perils of "normal" traffic, post-war conditions might well be highly dangerous. So the work which the police are doing for them is invaluable.

What is also needed, however, is a greater number of by-pass roads to keep fast-moving traffic away from our towns and villages; a low speed limit, rigidly enforced, for traffic in the towns and villages; and more bridges and subways across roads at key points, with penalties (in fairness to motorists) for their non-use by pedestrians.

## THOSE INCREASING CALLS

THOUGH the Post Office is appealing to us all to telephone less, and thus save electricity, labour, time, and trouble which should be concentrated on war effort, long-distance calls unfortunately are increasing. Recently they reached the record of a million in one week, although it is true that more than two-thirds of these calls were connected with the war.

Nevertheless, there were still some 30 per cent which were ordinary business calls, a number larger by 1 per cent than calls made on Government work. Difficulties of travelling doubtless account for many of these,

and naturally, when calls are strictly cut to six minutes maximum, some people tend to make them more frequently.

But another factor is that our Allies in uniform are far more telephone-minded than we are. Not only Americans, but also people from the Continent are more accustomed than we are to long-distance telephoning. Indeed, though we might deem a call from London to Edinburgh a "long-distance" affair, it would hardly seem so to an American from a land where 400 miles by no means exhausts even the breadth of his own home State.

## Anglo-American Oil Talks

A GREAT conference on oil supplies is to take place at Washington. At first, representatives of Britain and the United States are to confer, but at later stages other nations will be brought in. The American delegates will be headed by the Secretary of State, Mr Cordell Hull, and the conference is also to include Mr Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Petroleum Co-ordinator; the Under Secretaries for the War and Navy; the Petroleum Adviser; and Mr Charles Wilson, the Vice-Chairman of the American War Production Board. Delegates of similar high rank will represent Great Britain.

It will be remembered that America hopes to construct a great oil pipe-line from Arabia to the Mediterranean to cost £40,000,000, but this has been opposed by some American politicians as likely to cause future wars. Mr Harold Ickes, however, defends the project and asserts that neglect of it would jeopardise the future of the U.S. and impair its prosperity.

With the all-round speeding-up of communications the world is becoming a very small place indeed; and if we look ahead we must recognise that the question of supplies of oil, as of many other necessities, should be subject to some form of international control. It is to be hoped that these world talks on oil will prove very fruitful.

# TO THE YOUTH OF TODAY

In our birthday number last week we published a number of messages to the Youth of Today from leading figures in the life of our time. More were promised for this week. Here they are.

Jean Batten, CBE

NOR all of us realise that even now we can start making the world a better place to live in.

We can all draw inspiration from the many brave deeds being performed by our sailors, soldiers, and airmen who are sacrificing so much to preserve our freedom for us.

Every boy and girl can start now by making up their minds to be brave and courageous at all times, to be kind and helpful to others, not to grumble when things don't go exactly the way you want them to, but to be cheerful and have hope and faith and, most important, a ready smile for everyone; and above all to be truthful and never to do anything mean or dishonest.

In this way we can all fit ourselves for the task that lies ahead to create better understanding and good will among the peoples of the world.

J. F. Wolfenden, CBE, Headmaster of Uppingham

YOU who are young today have before you a future more exciting than any generation in history. Your elder brothers and sisters, your fathers and uncles, are winning this war. It will be your job to win the peace. And that will need just as much courage, determination, sympathy, and hard work as winning the war. It was for lack of those qualities that the world got into such a mess again after the last war was won. I was at school when the last war ended. My generation lost the last peace. Make sure that yours wins the next one.

Sir F. Handley Page, CBE

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Arthur Mee, the founder of the Children's Newspaper, was one of a party of 40 passengers who flew over London in one of the Handley Page four-engined bombers. This was the largest number of air passengers who had up to that time been carried in an aeroplane.

In the 25 years that have since passed by, the aeroplane has become such an ordinary sight that we hardly stop to look up when it flies over us; and travel by air is no longer an adventure, but a safe means of going quickly over long distances.

We have all seen during the present war what great destruction can be caused by the military use of the aeroplane. Let us hope that in the future its development will be for more peaceful purposes and will give everyone the possibility of greater travel abroad and of seeing other countries.

Nancy Price, Director of The People's Theatre, London

YOUNG people today are given every opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding, and my message to them is: "Open your ears and eyes to the beauty of the world and the wonders that are over it, on it, and within it." Then they must of necessity, through understanding, and because of a sense of gratitude, "Serve God and Honour the King."

Dr Sidney M. Berry, Secretary of the Congregational Union

WE shall really get a new and better world if we all think, not "What am I going to get out of life?" but "What am I going to put into it?"

Marquess of Zetland, KG, Chairman of The National Trust

WITH my congratulations may I commend to you the work of the National Trust. For to none should it appeal more powerfully than to the children of today who will come into the heritage of natural beauty and historic interest which, during the fifty years of its existence, it has been the constant endeavour of the Trust to preserve.

May they come to realise that the distinctive beauty of the English countryside is their birthright, to be cared for with reverence and thanksgiving; the many examples of England's domestic architecture, landmarks in the enthralling story of their race, to be cherished and handed down unimpaired to generations yet to come.

R. W. Moore, Head Master of Harrow School

REMEMBER your loyalty to God and to Christ before all other loyalties, and let your religious faith be in the forefront of all your thinking. Secondly, as you grow up during the years ahead, in one of the most difficult periods in the history of our nation, think more of your duties than of your rights. If you do so you will be helping to make the world a better place and you will be richer for it yourselves, in the only sense that matters.

Dr Albert Mansbridge, CH, President of the World Association for Adult Education

HEARTS set right, brains alert, eyes open, hands ready, do your bit. Such is the call to youth in these critical and fateful times.

Face the future, young men and women, with determination and courage. You who do not shrink, whatever your gifts may be, common or rare, will enter with joy into exciting adventures. You will not only discover and reveal but also create conditions, and treasure, for the enrichment of human life. That is as certain as that the light of the sun overcomes the darkness of night.

Flight-Lieut W. W. Wakefield, MP

THE young people of today will be the standard-bearers in the future of those principles for which our forefathers have fought throughout the centuries.

Their grandfathers and their fathers in bitter and bloody struggles in the air, on land, and at sea have preserved a great heritage. It will be for the youth of today to use that heritage wisely tomorrow. In order to do this, youth will have to take every opportunity to study the experiences of the past and to profit by them.

The progress of science and better opportunity for education will provide unsurpassed opportunities for all. The future is bright.

## Under the Editor's Table

THE Nazis are being urged to stand bravely behind Hitler. But he sends them to the front.

AN author says he always uses a pen name. Must be a bit of a nib.

WOODEN-SOLED shoes make too much noise. They are sound value.

A LOT of people cook their meals on a one-ring cooker. Evidently take turns.

Peter Puck Wants to Know



RIDICULOUS - LOOKING hats are going out. We have met some of them.

MOST cooks haven't a steamer, says a writer. Only ships' cooks.

A POET says he always has an appointment with the daffodils at Kew. And when he keeps it they are always out.

EGGS are news. Always being broken.

If a sponge cake is a bath bun

### Let No Such Man Be Trusted

THE man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;  
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,  
And his affections dark as Erebus:  
Let no such man be trusted—  
Mark the music.

Shakespeare

### JUST AN IDEA

He who asks for trouble is never disappointed.





## Cinderella in School

Delightful mural paintings by Mrs Vanessa Bell and Mr Duncan 'Gran', showing the story of Cinderella, adorn the dining-room of Devonshire Hill School, Tottenham.

Dr J. S. Whale, Headmaster-elect of Mill Hill School

**A** MESSAGE to modern youth! Well, we who are middle-aged have to begin humbly with a confession of guilt. The world which we bequeath to you of the next generation is a monument to our folly and failure. There is neither complacency nor patronage in our hearts as we salute you.

But we don't end on this note with which we have to begin. Though the world is evil and dangerous (a confession which you, too, will make to our grandchildren if you are honest!), it is nevertheless God's world, and Jesus Christ rather than "the mystery of iniquity" is the final truth about it. Your ideals and dreams depend ultimately on that faith.

Dr W. B. Selbie, M A

**I**T is a grand thing to be young in these days. The world is in a sorry state and needs to be rebuilt and you who are young now are to be the builders. I hope you are getting ready for the job. Learn to fear God and love your fellow men and seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness and all will be well.

Sir Richard Livingstone, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford

**I** THINK you would agree with the following words about the atmosphere in which the young should be brought up; they were written by Plato in his Republic over 2000 years ago.

"Our young people, living in a wholesome climate, should drink in good from every quarter, whence, like a breeze bearing health from happy regions, some influence from noble works constantly falls upon eye and ear from childhood upwards. A training of this sort makes a man quick to perceive any defect or ugliness in art or nature. Such deformity will rightly disgust him. Approving all that is lovely, he will welcome it home with joy into his soul and, thereby nourished, grow into a man of noble spirit. All that is ugly and disgraceful he will rightly condemn and abhor while he is still too young to understand the reason; and when reason comes, he will greet her as a friend with whom his education has made him long familiar. This is the purpose of education in literature and music."

Sir Frank Brangwyn, R A

**L**ET us all strive as we plan our daily lives to think clearly, and perform the tasks that fall to us with courage and decision. Some who read these lines may aspire to Art, and I would commend to them the saying of Oliver Wendell Holmes that "the one thing that marks the true artist is a clear conception and a firm, bold hand." This, I think, should be the aim of all young people setting out on their journey through life.

Professor Gilbert Murray, O M

**A**FTER the general corruption due to the war young people in many countries are trying to build up a better society. Russia is the great instance, but there are others too. How shall you help to make a better England? Well, in Victorian days the British had the reputation of being more truthful, more honest, and more chaste than most nations; try to maintain that reputation and add to it the generosity and understanding that the difficult post-war time will need.

Dr J. J. Mallon, C H, Warden of Toynbee Hall

**T**HE celebration of the 25th birthday of the CN is both pleasing and re-assuring. Even more pleasing and re-assuring is the thought of the new chapter on which it will now begin and the wider opportunity it is likely in future to enjoy. The Education Bill promises a better treatment of children and greater care of their bodies and brains. These, better treated children will increasingly wish to read about and understand the affairs of their time and the community in which they must fit themselves and live as happily and usefully as they can.

M. L. Jacks, M A, Director of the University Department of Education at Oxford

**W**E hear much today of the Service of Youth. That phrase may be interpreted in two ways: it may mean the service rendered to young people by others (in schools, clubs, camps, voluntary organisations, and activities of all kinds), or it may mean the services rendered by young people to the community. The latter is immeasurably the more important—the former, indeed, only exists to

Continued on page 6

# CARRY ON

## THE MERRY PIPER

**P**IPING down the valleys wild,  
Piping songs of pleasant glee,

On a cloud I saw a child,  
And he laughing said to me:

"Pipe a song about a \*Lamb!"  
So I piped with merry cheer.  
"Piper, pipe that song again;"  
So I piped: he wept to hear.

"Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe;  
Sing thy songs of happy cheer."

So I sang the same again,  
While he wept with joy to hear.

"Piper, sit thee down and write  
In a book, that all may read."  
So he vanished from my sight,  
And I plucked a hollow reed,

And I made a rural pen,  
And I stained the water clear,  
And I write my happy songs  
Every child may joy to hear.

William Blake

## The Friends We Know by Sight

**H**OW many persons we meet in houses whom we scarcely speak to, whom yet we honour, and who honour us! How many we see in the street, or sit with in church, whom, though silently, we warmly rejoice to be with! Read the language of these wandering eye beams. The heart knoweth.

Emerson

## WHAT SHALL ENDURE

**T**HE builders build while each shall have his day.

The writers write before their ink go dry.

Ere the last stone is set begins decay.

And what is truth who knows, and what a lie?

But where love is, a beauty shall endure:

Love only shall be absolute and sure.

What thing shall stay? What human task shall deign

Long to withstand these ravages of time?

Little avails the passion and the pain,

Little alike the sordid and sublime.

But where love was, shall not a spirit dwell

And deserts bloom anew and all be well?

Sydney Jeffery

## True Happiness

**M**ANKIND will reach the height of felicity when each individual understands that his own happiness consists in the happiness of others.

Zola

## THE MASTER POWER

**M**IND is the Master Power  
That moulds and makes,

And man is mind  
Who evermore takes

The tool of thought, and,  
Shaping what he will,

Brings forth a thousand  
Joys, a thousand ills;

He thinks in secret  
And lo, it comes to pass—

Environment is but  
His looking-glass. Whittier.

## The Nest in the Old Yew Tree

**W**HEN I walk out of my house into my garden I walk out of my habitual self, my everyday thoughts, my customariness of joy or sorrow by which I recognise and assure myself of my own identity. These I leave behind me for a time as the bather leaves his garments on the beach. This piece of garden-ground, in extent barely a square acre, is a kingdom with its own interests, annals, and incidents. Something is always happening in it. Today is always different from yesterday.

This spring a chaffinch built a nest in one of my yew trees. The particular yew which the bird did me the honour to select had been clipped long ago into a similitude of Adam, and, in fact, went by his name. The resemblance to a human figure was, of course, remote, but the intention was evident. In the black shock

head of our first parent did the birds establish their habitation. A prettier, rounder, more comfortable nest I never saw. And many a wild swing it got when Adam bent his back, and bobbed and shook his head when the bitter east wind was blowing.

The nest interested me, and I visited it every day from the time that the first stained-turquoise sphere was laid in the warm lining of moss and horse-hair, till, when I chirped, four red hungry throats, eager for worm or slug, opened out of a confused mass of feathery down. What a hungry brood it was, to be sure, and how often father and mother were put to it to provide them sustenance!

I went but the other day to have a peep, and, behold, brood and parent-birds were gone, the nest was empty, Adam's visitors had departed. Alexander Smith

## If I Might Choose

**I**F Heaven the grateful liberty would give

That I might choose my method how to live,

And all those hours propitious fate should lend

In blissful ease and satisfaction spend;

Near some fair town I'd have a private seat,

Built uniform, not little, nor too great;

Better, if on a rising ground it stood;

On this side fields, on that a neighbouring wood.

It should within no other things contain

But what are useful, necessary, plain;

Methinks tis nauseous, and I'd ne'er endure,

The needless pomp of gaudy furniture.

A little garden grateful to the eye

And a cool rivulet run murmuring by,

On whose delicious banks a stately row

Of shady limes or sycamores should grow;

At the end of which a silent study placed,

Should be with all the noblest authors graced.

John Pomfret

## SPRING IS CALLING

**D**EEP in her heart Old Earth is crammed with dreams, and every year her dreams come true.

They come true in the spring. The grub lies in its coat of mail, sleeping and dreaming, but in the spring its dream comes true, and it creeps about the earth a shining beetle, or leaps into the sun a gorgeous butterfly. Not once has Nature missed her way. She set out ages since—millions of years she has been on her journey; and every year her plans have been fulfilled. She goes her way and keeps her

time. Day follows night, tides rise and fall, and every winter changes into spring; they follow the time-table laid down in the beginning of the world.

And now the bluebells are coming again, Spring is leaping into life, and the heart of the world is thrilled with hope. Let us take a walk in the garden; let us saunter through the woods; let us listen for the nightingale in the tree-top down the lane. Nature is stirring. Spring is calling. The glory of the world is coming, and all will be well.

Arthur Mee, 25 years ago



THIS ENGLAND

A kistvaen, or ancient stone burial place, on Dartmoor in Devonshire



## Teaching Africa

AFRICA is going to take a leaf out of the book of Russia and China if the plans of the Colonial Office to "mass educate" the nations of Africa are realised.

The vast majority of African peoples are still unable to read and write, and the new plans of the Government provide for a great attack upon this problem. A great proportion of African children, too, do not go to school.

There are four big objectives which the Colonial Office is going to keep in mind in its educational campaign:

1 The wide extension of schooling for children, with the goal of universal school within a measurable time.

2 The spread of literacy among adults, together with a widespread development of literature and libraries.

3 The planning of mass education of the community as a movement of the community itself, involving the active support of the local community from the start.

4 The effective co-ordination of welfare plans and mass education plans so that they form a comprehensive and balanced whole.

Many Africans who have been on active service in foreign countries have seen how people in Ceylon, Madagascar, Abyssinia, and the Middle East live and work. They will come back, determined to have some of the same advantages. The new plans hope that Africans themselves will take a big part in improving the life of their country, in being teachers and leaders in the new campaign. The plans call for "combined operations" for Africa so that all, including Churches, missions, teachers' associations, co-operative societies, trade unions, industrial and commercial concerns, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and clubs, can play their part.

## A HERO DEFINES BRAVERY

ONE of the bravest veterans of the Dominion Forces, Sergeant Jack French, of Toronto, is home again in Canada. He was 22 when he first crossed the seas 30 years ago to fight for the freedom of the oppressed, and he was 48 when he made the same perilous journey a second time. He wears two bars to his D.C.M., two bars to his M.M., and the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre are ranged beside them.

This splendid Canadian hero has been mentioned in dispatches fourteen times. He has been out on Commando raids seven times, and now he is back

in the Dominion, training other Commandos. But he longs to be back in the fighting now that it promises the greatest adventure of all in the Second Front. So he has applied for transfer to the Navy, and hopes to join a submarine before the autumn.

This warrior of 52 was asked how he would define bravery, which comes to him as simple nature. "Well," he replied, "it's just a matter of controlling your stomach." An easy definition, perhaps, but there is more in it than appears at first sight, and only a brave man could have given such an answer.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Hidden Treasure

"It's a shame," grumbled Bill, "that we should have the worst room in the house."

"So it is," agreed Susan, who always echoed her twin's views.

The Egertons had moved house, and the children coveted a room in the front overlooking the garden, but were told this was to be the spare-room, so there was nothing for it but to make the best of things.

The children unpacked their belongings in the room at the top of the house with a latticed window and a queer sloping roof.

"It isn't so bad," admitted Bill, leaning out of the window which had a good view of the railway-line.

"There seems to be a fine cupboard here which might do for our trunks," said Susan. "Come and look!"

Together they pushed open a big door in the side wall. The twins stared silently for a moment, then "Hidden treasure?" whispered Bill mysteriously, as from the dark and dusty depths they pulled out a large wooden box with brass hinges.

Susan was pink with excitement. "Perhaps smugglers have been here," she cried, and the children had visions of golden ducats, pieces of eight, and strings of pearls appearing when the locks finally gave way to the persuasion of Daddy's screw-driver.



But the contents merely proved to be a paper, yellow with age, inscribed

6 Damask Tablecloths  
12 Damask Napkins

followed by a list of articles, obviously the inventory of a linen-cupboard of long ago.

"Never mind," laughed Daddy. "The box itself is a find, and you have a room with great possibilities."

What Daddy meant the twins never knew, but they certainly enjoyed living in the attic-room!

## TO THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Continued from page 5

make the latter possible. During the war young people have served the community with devotion and self-sacrifice: but the testing-time will come with the less exciting days of peace: will the same devoted and self-sacrificing service be forthcoming then? I should like to see young people make the peace—I believe they would make a much better peace than the middle-aged and the old: it is unlikely, however, that they will be allowed to do this: but no one can take from them the responsibility of winning and keeping the peace, and they will only be able to shoulder that in a spirit of service. I have no doubt they will show that spirit.

Commander C. B. Fry

Cast out fear. Practise from the first and every day and always never being afraid of anything or anybody, anyhow or anywhere. But practise respect and reverence.

Make a fine art of doing the simplest things well. The Seaman or the Wren who makes a fine art of cleaning a bucket is on the road "to Nelson."

Sir Richard Gregory, Bt, F.R.S.

THE Children's Newspaper was founded to give "the story of the world today for the men and women of tomorrow," and its aim has never been diverted from this moving target. Week by week it has brought together noble thoughts and related great achievements as a guide to learning and a stimulus to high endeavour. Its message of scientific truth and spiritual righteousness has influenced the characters of every parent and young person who has received it. To the present generation of youth I would say, as to the past, read and take heed of these lessons to shape your lives.

Sir Cyril Norwood, President of St John's College, Oxford

I HOPE that you will help to make this country a better place in your time than it has been in ours. Strong purpose and steady work will do it. But remember it isn't the whistle that moves the train, and you build nothing solid out of mere talk.

B. Seebohm Rowntree, C.H.

THE war has shattered the old world and a new one will have to be built.

It will take a long time to build and the task will fall very largely on those who are now young. I hope all those young people who read these words will determine to do all they possibly can to help to build a better world, where there is more love and kindness and unselfishness, so that there may be no more wars.

## Legal Aid For Soldiers

A Command Legal Aid Department through which free legal advice can be obtained by every soldier not above the rank of sergeant is now in operation. It extends its services to the A.T.S., W.A.A.F., and to all airmen.

Every Command has its section, and a special section deals with cases of men serving overseas; they are staffed by officers, who are peacetime legal men and voluntarily offer their services.

## The Starry Bee-Hive

THE famous Praesepe stellar cluster, also popularly known as the Bee-hive, may now be found easily with the aid of the brilliant Jupiter, on any dark and clear night when the Moon is not in evidence, writes the C.N. Astronomer.

This singular congregation of multitudes of stars appears to the unaided eye as a misty patch of light, covering an area of the sky almost as large as the Moon. Very little optical aid will show this to be a number of twinkling stars, standing out against a luminous beyond. Between 25 and 50 will be revealed when seen through binoculars or opera glasses, but high telescopic powers will increase this number to upwards of 500, according to the power used. The "luminous beyond" is actually the radiance

36,700,000 and 38 million times the Sun's distance, or, as astronomers say, *Astronomical Units*.

At this enormous distance our Sun would be quite invisible without powerful telescopic aid, so we thus realise that it is only the nearer giant stars of the Praesepe which are perceptible through the glasses. Actually there are many stars more or less similar to ours among that multitude, and unquestionably large numbers of worlds in various stages of planetary evolution.

Possible inhabitants, if any, of those worlds would be blessed with a night sky of extraordinary grandeur, since bright stars are strewn ten times as thickly round them as round our own Sun. Many of those stars of the Praesepe being "giant stars" and appearing far brighter than Sirius does to us, the stellar scene would therefore appear superb as compared with the finest starry nights that we have. Indeed it becomes possible that the starlight that would be experienced on worlds in those regions might be equal to our moonlight, and therefore dark nights such as we have would never exist on any worlds that might be constituted like ours.

Jupiter will not be seen to approach apparently any nearer to the Praesepe from now onwards, because he appears stationary at present and will soon begin his direct easterly motion towards the left; but at the beginning of August last year Jupiter appeared to pass very near to the Praesepe Cluster. The whole scene, however, could not be observed, as it then appeared too near to the Sun. There is a curious record by Ptolemy, the ancient astronomer, which states that Jupiter passed over the "Manger," that is the Praesepe, in a year that would have been 240 B.C. This reveals how regular and precise are the planet's orbits, and also that of the Earth which has revolved 2183 times since. G. F. M.



The present position of Jupiter relative to the Praesepe Cluster

from this grand stellar host, most of which are only revealed as individual stars by means of photography.

The position of this Praesepe—or Manger, as it was known to the ancient astronomers, who knew nothing of its marvellous stellar composition—appears between two stars of the constellation Cancer. These stars are Gamma and Delta of Cancer, shown on the accompanying star-map. They are of only fourth-magnitude and not readily found, but the brilliant Jupiter, which is a little way to the left, will make identification quite certain and easy when no Moon is present. Just now they are high up and almost due south about seven o'clock in the evening, veering toward south-west later.

The stars Gamma and Delta are really no part of the Praesepe Cluster. Delta is in fact very much nearer to us than to the cluster, being about 203 light-years distant, whereas the stars of that vast cluster are so far off that their light takes between 580 and 600 years to reach us. They therefore average between

## MAKING TAXES FAIRER

CIVILISED people know well that they must, for their own sakes and the sake of the nation of which they are a part, consent to be taxed by the Government. The State of which they are proud must be supplied with the means to keep it in good order, to develop and care for its growth, and to provide for the hundred and one needs of an organised community.

The Bill for such work performed for a great population must be costly, and it matters much to us all that the collection of the money to pay it should be made by taxes that are levied conveniently and fairly with due regard to our means.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, as we call the minister entrusted with the great responsibility of levying taxes, has no easy task, for the people he taxes get their livings in many different ways and are engaged in trades which may suffer severely if they are taxed unjustly or out of proportion to their means. They range from weekly wage-earners to rich owners of property. It is obviously diffi-

cult to devise taxes which, while helping the nation to keep its Treasury in funds, collect money from tens of thousands of different categories of taxpayers.

The next budget will soon be introduced in the House of Commons and there are many people who would like the Chancellor of the Exchequer to review one of the grievances which still affect taxpayers.

This concerns industry, whether it is engaged in home or export trade, and it is maintained that the Treasury should do better justice to business men by making fair allowances for such matters as wear and tear of plant, for plant and material that has to be discarded because out of date, and for capital spent experimentally in development. If this were done generously the Government would be helping industry at a time when it needs every possible stimulus. It is true that the Chancellor would suffer in immediate revenue if he followed such a policy, but the Treasury would gain in the near future by the prosperity fair taxation would stimulate.



## LEARNING & LAUGHTER

"Do you believe in fairies?" asks Peter Pan at a critical moment in the play. There was born a century ago this week a man who was enchanting the world with stories of fairies almost worth believing in long before Peter Pan was dreamed of. His name was Andrew Lang.

Andrew Lang's splendid Fairy Books appeared year after year, and they are still so well loved and remembered that it is hard to realise that he died as long ago as 1912. So much of his work remains in favour and affection that he still seems with us, for in addition to fairyland there is scarcely a literary field into which he does not welcome us.

Born at Selkirk, Scotland, and educated at St Andrew's University, and at Oxford, where he became a fellow of Merton, Andrew Lang appeared destined to an academic career. But he charmed a wide circle with poetry of the daintiest order, and his pen was such a fountain of learning and of witty yet learned discourse that to London he came as a man of letters, there to toil for forty years, with delight in everything he touched.

Never was there a more versatile or industrious man. Taking all knowledge for his province, he did not exclude even cricket, golf, or fishing from his themes, but wrote on them as an expert, inimitably. In writing an article on cricket he would introduce Aristotle, while in the course of a grave essay on philosophy he would bring in the name and fame of W. G. Grace.

In his brilliant youth he had loathed Greek, yet at 39, in

association with Samuel H. Butcher of Oxford, he produced a prose translation of Homer's *Odyssey* which is a model of learning and solemn beauty in language. Afterwards he joined two other scholars in translating the *Iliad*, with seven of the 24 books to his credit.

It would be difficult to catalogue the writings of this happy, merry scholar. He would turn from poetry to novel-writing, from novels to criticism, from criticism to elaborate history, from history to biography; he wrote volumes on folk lore, mythology, primitive religions, and on those adventures of the mind that the Society for Psychical Research investigates.

### A Letter From R.L.S.

With all his learning he remained much of a laughter-loving boy. He doted, he said, on his friend Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, which he ranked with the *Odyssey* as an adventure story. There was, indeed, something of Stevenson's brave lightness of heart in Lang, who said that in his eyes R. L. S. "looked more like a lass than a lad" to the end of his days. Of the last two letters Stevenson wrote as he lay dying in Samoa, one was to Andrew Lang.

Lang was a ready writer, and he could write anywhere; his pad on his hat, his hat on his knee in a jolting railway carriage, or on a table of the pavilion at Lord's, with the noise and excitement attending a great match all about him.

He divided his life between London, the Continent, and St Andrew's, for, complete citizen of the world though he was, he never forgot that he was a Scotsman. It is in the precincts of the cathedral of St Andrew's that he sleeps.

Typical of the man was his whim that, having written so much of the lives of others, he desired that no biography of himself should be given to the world. Yet, as well as scholars, youth and childhood know and love him; to them he speaks still through the fairy books and the matchless prose Homer.

### Hero With the Contact Lenses

Squadron Leader Geoffrey Warnes, DSO, DFC, whose plane came down in the Channel recently and in whose attempted rescue two of his fellow-pilots gave their lives, is a man of whom his native town of Colchester is justly proud. Three times he was rejected for flying duties, but he was determined to become a fighter-pilot; and since a fighter-pilot with spectacles would hardly do for the R.A.F., he went to his oculist for contact lenses, which are worn inside the eyelids and against the eyeballs.

With heroism everywhere, we are apt to take it for granted; and indeed, that is what our heroes of these glorious days would wish. All the same, it behoves us to remember with particular pride such men as Squadron Leader Geoffrey Warnes.

## US Congressmen at Westminster

A GREAT new page is being written in the history of Anglo-American relations. The British Parliament—not the Government alone—is inviting a delegation representative of the American Congress, both the Senate and the House of Representatives, to become its guests, "at as early a date as may be convenient."

It will be remembered that Mr Churchill addressed Congress on two great occasions, and was present at Ottawa last year, when a delegation from Congress visited the Conference of the Empire Parliamentary Association held there. That Conference was the first at which American Congressmen not only attended, but took part in the proceedings, and Mr Churchill declared that it was of historical significance.

Of the new contact now to be made at Westminster we may well repeat our Prime Minister's actual words that he deemed it "a happy augury of fellowship and mutual understanding in the days when, after victory, we face together the problems of peace."

Every reader of the C.N., with what we hope and pray to be a future of peace before him, might well begin a new world diary with a note of the Commons invitation tabled on March 10. The whole nation eagerly looks forward to the visit of the American Congressmen.

### Connubial Bus

Mr Albert White, of Partington Lane, Swinton, is paid to take orders from his wife, Mrs Rachel White! Throughout each day Mrs White, a bus conductress, rings the bell to order her husband to start or stop the bus—and Mr White, the driver, cheerfully does as he is told.

Mr and Mrs White are among a number of couples who are now carrying out "combined operations" on buses belonging to a Lancashire transport company. The firm have withdrawn their original ban on husbands and wives working together and have found that the present arrangement works well.

Mrs White has said, "I can work much better with my husband than with anyone else. We enjoy working together, but the most important fact of all is that the majority of our domestic difficulties are solved by our being on the same shifts together. It is much better than the disorganised system under which a husband might work mornings and a wife evenings."

It certainly seems a happy plan; but we feel that it will be an ideal one only when the jobs can occasionally be reversed, and the husband has his chance to give the orders.

### MARRIED WOMEN AS TEACHERS

We are glad to say that the President of the Board of Education has accepted an amendment by Mr Hamilton Kerr, a bachelor M.P., removing the ban on women teachers from the Education Bill. This is directly a result of the good work of married women teachers during the war, but it is also due to the fact that the raising of the school-leaving age adds to the professional value of married women as teachers.

## BASIC ENGLISH VERSUS BABEL

As most of our readers know, Basic English is a simple language designed for those who speak other tongues, a vocabulary of a few hundred cleverly-chosen English words which will simplify international communications and form a useful step in the learning of English proper.

Basic English is intended specifically as an auxiliary language invaluable in the fields of commerce and diplomacy, and in general as a torch which shall shine brightly in the dark labyrinth of Babel. It has already been the cause of more wordy warfare than any other literary subject of recent years; and it will doubtless long continue to be a bone of contention between purists and practical people.

Nevertheless, Basic English plays a considerable part in America in the teaching of citizenship to foreign-born citizens who have not completely mastered the English language, and now the Prime Minister has told Parliament that it has the seal of the British Government's approval.

Mr Churchill announced that as a Committee of Ministers, having heard a considerable volume of evidence, had reported favourably upon Basic English, the Government has decided to support the use of Basic English as an auxiliary international language. They are impressed with the great advantages that would ensue from its development, not in substitution for established languages, but as a supplementary organ of language.

Here is an outline of what is arranged:

1. The British Council will further the teaching of Basic English in any area where there may be a demand for instruction for the specific purpose of assisting an auxiliary medium of international communication.

2. Diplomatic and commercial representatives abroad will be asked to encourage the spread of Basic English as an auxiliary language.

3. Translations into Basic English, both from ordinary English and foreign languages, will be assisted.

4. Colonial governments will be invited to experiment with Basic English handbooks.

5. The B.B.C. are being asked to consider the use and teaching of Basic English in home and overseas programmes.

For our part, while recognising that Basic English has many defects (and there is much to be said against it, for instance, on the score of spelling difficulties), we welcome it as an intended contribution to better communications between the world's peoples, and therefore of better understanding. If it furthers the cause of international understanding and friendship—if that will be the basic result of Basic English—in the end it must have the blessing of all right-thinking people.

### Signalling By Mirror

A new type of signalling mirror has been developed, and 20,000 of them are being issued for use in ships' lifeboats.

It consists of a sheet of highly polished stainless steel, and is provided with a foresight and a focus. It can be directed to a target ten miles away—an improvement on the old way of using an ordinary mirror.

**Famous for drawing!**

For over a century Gillott's have made the finest quality and the widest range of drawing pens in the world... the favourites of famous artists. At present supplies may be limited, but the excellence persists.

By appointment to the late King George V.

**Gillott's Pens**

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD.  
VICTORIA WORKS - BIRMINGHAM

**FORWARD TO VICTORY!**

and NORMAL SUPPLIES OF

**BASSETT'S ORIGINAL LIQUORICE ALLSORTS**

Apologies to customers unable to obtain BASSETT'S—due to Zoning

## BSA Bicycles beat U-Boats



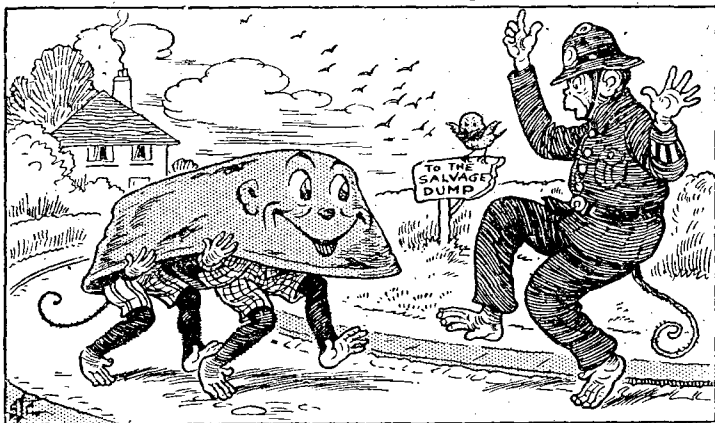
**CRASH!!** The torpedo tore into the ship's side, and down in their U-Boat the Germans smiled craftily as their prey sank, carrying to the bottom precious cargo including a whole crate of valuable B.S.A. Bicycles.

But as far as those B.S.A. Bicycles were concerned the Germans smiled too soon. For the salvage gangs hoisted the crate to the surface again, and a cheer went up when it was found that in spite of being torpedoed and soured in sea water those B.S.A. Bicycles were as good as new, and the cyclists who bought them were delighted. No wonder everyone wants a B.S.A. Bicycle, but they are scarce nowadays. Just the same, get your parents to put your name on the dealer's waiting list and you'll soon have a B.S.A. of your own to boast about.

**BSA THE BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT**  
B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11.



## Jacko at Last Enjoys a Bath



JACKO and Chimp were taking a big metal bath to the salvage dump, when they saw PC Monkeyman in the distance. "Ah!" said Jacko. "Here is our chance to have a game with him!" So they drew a comical face on the end of the bath, and putting it over their heads proceeded on their way. Before long they reached PC Monkeyman, and although at first he was startled, thinking he had met with some strange quadruped, he soon discovered his mistake. "Be off with you, you young varmints!" he shouted. And Jacko and Chimp, taking him at his word, dumped the bath by the roadside and scurried away as fast as their four feet could take them.

**Double Summer Time**  
BRITISH Double Summer Time starts on Sunday, April 2, so put your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night.



**"TO LIVE  
WILL BE AN  
AWFULLY  
BIG  
ADVENTURE"**

One day the war will end. One day a new world will surely re-awaken around wide-eyed children unused to the ways of peace. The carefree spirit of Peter Pan will capture the hearts of a young generation on the threshold of fresh, simple delights. Then, slightly to misquote Barrie—"To live will be an awfully big adventure." Wise parents are keeping their children fit and healthy now with 'Milk of Magnesia', so that they will enjoy to the full the zest of youth in the happier years ahead.



**'MILK OF MAGNESIA'**

Trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

**BRIDGE-BUILDERS OF A  
NEW ENGLAND**

The children of to-day must accept the responsibility of the country in the future. Our Youth Centres are winning them from the streets and training them for useful Christian citizenship. Eight of our badly battered centres in this devastated area need equipping for this service. Will you please help? The Rev. Percy Ineson, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.

## The BRAN TUB

### WHO SCORED?

"WONDERFUL view you have from here, I expect you can see across to America sometimes," said a visitor to a Western Highlands village, thinking to pull the leg of the oldest inhabitant.

"Much farther than that," was the reply. "When there's no mist we can see to the Moon."

### Nature News

THE cormorant, common to our coasts, is getting ready its nest of sticks and seaweed on some ledge overlooking the sea, while the lapwing, or peewit, has already laid four olive-green eggs, spotted and blotched with brownish black, in its nest made of a few grasses and roots on the bare ground.

The white flowers of the black-thorn or sloe make a lovely show in the hedgerows, the cowslip is in flower, and the wild hyacinths will soon be dotting the woods with lovely blue. In the farmyard, goslings are already hatched out, and any day now the cuckoo will be heard.

### NONSENSE

THERE was an old man of Aosta,  
Who possessed a large cow,  
but he lost her;  
But they said, "Don't you see,  
She has rushed up a tree?  
You invidious old man of Aosta!"

### Other Worlds

IN the evenings Mars, Saturn, and Uranus are in the south-west, and Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is very low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 1.



### Proverbs About Perseverance

A mouse in time may bite in two a cable.  
Always at it wins the day.  
He that shoots off at last shall hit the mark.  
Drop by drop the lake is drained.  
An inch an hour is a foot a day.

## The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, March 29, to Tuesday, April 4.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Young Artists; followed by The Dragon's Dinner, a story by Jim Malpas. 5.50 Laurens Sargent.

THURSDAY, 5.20 A story for the Youngest Listeners. The Crooked Brownies Make a Voyage; followed by Russian piano music, by Wight Henderson; and Then and Now, by Sir William Y. Darling.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Captain John Smith—Admiral of New England, the story of a great Lincolnshire pioneer.

SATURDAY, 5.20 April Folly, another amazing adventure at Cuckoo's Hollow.

SUNDAY, 5.20 For, lo, the Winter is Past, a programme of Verse, Music, and Story for Palm Sunday; followed by Songs of the English Singers Quartet; and a Talk by The Woodlander. 5.55 Prayers.

MONDAY, 5.20 New Serial, Long Ears, the story of a little grey donkey, by Patricia Lynch. 5.30 A programme by the Park and Dare Junior Band, conductor Matt Evans; followed by Thanks to Muggins, story by Antonia Ridge.

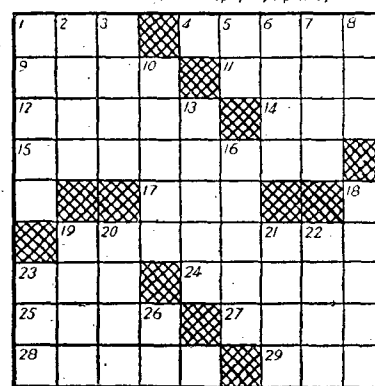
TUESDAY, 5.30 Down at the Mains. In Scotland the farm on an estate is often called The Mains, and in this new series you will meet Andrew Scott, the farmer of Braeside Mains, his wife, Joan, Dan, their little boy, and their friends.

## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 An air agitator. 4 To set in position. 9 Cupid's other name. 11 A bivalvular shellfish. 12 His brother's daughter. 14 One of the horse family. 15 A gourd shell dried. 17 A slender stick. 19 Notched. 23 A non-poisonous snake. 24 To give way. 25 Exhausted of moisture. 27 Completely destroy. 28 General drift of thought. 29 French for sea.

Reading Down. 1 To parry arguments. 2 A song. 3 Christmas. 5 Lord Chancellor (abbrev.). 6 Exclamation expressing sorrow. 7 Money. 8 River of Germany. 10 To frighten. 13 A black, hard wood. 16 Robin of that ilk. 18 Poisonous snake. 19 The heart of a thing. 20 Moisture from the sky. 21 Two or more horses working together. 22 Besides. 23 Essential for cricket. 26 To perform.

Answer next week



### HUSH HUSH

AN indiscreet man confided a secret to a friend, asking him earnestly never to repeat it.

"Do not worry," said his friend. "I shall be as discreet as you are."

### Beheaded Word

Now, if you wish,  
Behead a fish,  
To listen, you'll discover;  
Once more behead  
And find instead,  
A wooden chest, or coffer.

Answer next week

## THE THREE MUSTARDEERS

are in a tight corner when



I HAVE a good memory for faces, but that woman's face baffles me." The Three Mustardeers had just left a tobacconist's shop after delivering a letter a neighbour had asked Roger to leave there. "I've seen her somewhere before," continued Roger, "but, as that's the first time I've been in that shop, it couldn't have been there." Next evening, as Roger waited in his Uncle's office, a cleaner opened the door. With a muttered word of apology she withdrew. Roger remembered seeing her on a previous occasion, with her bucket and mop, waiting for the lift. But yesterday he had seen her face behind the tobacconist's counter. "It can't be!" he ejaculated. "That cleaner—she has a tobacconist's shop in Hebburn St. There she's as smart as paint—here she's as untidy as they make 'em." Roger's uncle laughed. "Another case of mistaken identity," he said. "Come on; I'm finished. Let's go."

Next day, Roger told Jim and Mary of his amazing discovery. "And we're going to that shop for another look at her. If it's the same woman, there's something fishy going on." In the shop, Roger asked for a packet of cigarettes. "Can't serve you," said the woman. "You're too young. But come through to the back and we'll see what I can do." The Mustardeers followed her into a room where she placed herself back to the door. "Now what's your game?" she snarled at Roger. "All right, you can come out," she called to someone in an inner room. She pointed a revolver at the Mustardeers as Roger's neighbour, whose letter he had taken to the tobacconist, emerged from this room. "Oh, so whatever the game, you're in it together," said Roger. The man slapped Roger's face. "Keep your trap shut," he growled. "Well, what are we going to do with them?" he asked, turning to the woman. "Nothing," she said; but she pointed her gun at him—"They are going to tie you up." He made towards her. "No, stand where you are. You," she said to Roger and Jim, "get some rope from the corner, and fasten him tightly. You, girlie, ring up this number."

Say A23 calling, and give this message—The plums are ready." The man screamed: "A23! Who are you? The Fuehrer does not like double-crossers."

With a sudden movement, he kicked the revolver from the woman's hand. Before she could recover, he dashed for the street door. Jim, quick as lightning, picked up a canister of tobacco and hurled it at him. It caught the man in the neck, and he went down. The boys sprang upon him, while the woman again covered him with her revolver. Mary came out from the room. "The answer is: We will pick them at once," she said.

In five minutes, Roger's uncle, accompanied by two other men, came into the shop. "So we've got him at last," Roger's uncle said. "But, Uncle," cried Roger, in surprise, "what's it all mean?" "Just this, my boy," answered Roger's uncle, "this man was tampering with something the Admiralty wanted to keep a secret. And, thank heaven, it will be kept secret now." "Yes," said the woman, who had been revealed as A23 of the British Secret Service, to Roger's uncle, "you'll find he has left everything in that room, all ready for me to get through to Germany. But unfortunately for him, my route doesn't go that way. It leads to Whitehall. He was going to get the papers through himself, and I was wondering how to keep him here till help arrived."



Then you youngsters came. I had to threaten you to bluff him." "Yes," said Roger. "But how are you mixed up in it, Uncle? Your business is—" "My boy," interrupted his Uncle, "my business is not yours. So, I want your word of honour, all three of you, that you will forget what you have seen and heard." "That's given—you know that, Uncle," said Roger. And Jim and Mary crossed their hearts.

SAID JIM: "It's all very mystifying, as the little boy said when he discovered that a little dab of mustard made fat taste so delicious."

### THE MUSTARDEERS' OATH

We will have mustard whenever we can get it. It makes good food taste better. It helps us to keep healthy and strong. We will have Mustard—

**Colman's Mustard**

